

as he had been during the last few months of his father's reign. His aims and ambitions do not appear to have changed, but he had henceforth to adopt different means to obtain them. His place in the counsels of the new King would no longer be determined by the personal friendship of the monarch. For his position in the new state of things he had to trust to the need the government would feel, in a time of bankruptcy and invasion, for the support of the most powerful man in England, and to the distant possibility of his some day succeeding to the throne. As this was ground less secure than the complete confidence of the King, he had henceforward to treat the political forces in the country with greater respect. He could no longer fly openly in the face of general opinion, persecute popular champions, tamper with the privileges of London, or repeal with contumely the Acts of Parliament. But his action in the last year of King Edward had already impressed men with suspicions that time could never efface.

When on June 21 Edward died at his manor of Shene, John of Gaunt lent his loyal support to the proceedings that ensured the succession of his nephew. Until Richard was firmly seated, no one was strong enough to retaliate on the Duke, and his aid was readily accepted until after the coronation. The policy natural to that moment of crisis was the reconciliation of all parties under the new King. No time was lost in accomplishing this. The boy ruler began work at Shene on the day after his grandfather's death. The Earl of March and "William of Wykeham had already returned to Court, and were present with John of Gaunt at the ceremony of the surrender of the Seals.<sup>1</sup> The same day a deputation from the city arrived at the manor. The King, standing by his grandfather's body, acted the part of peacemaker between the greatest city and the greatest lord in the dominions over which he had been so prematurely called to reign. At his instance John of Gaunt stepped up and embraced the members of the deputation one after another. A similar reconciliation took place between the Duke and William of Wykeham, prior to the formal issue of pardons for the benefit

<sup>1</sup> *Feed.*, iv. 1,